

**The City of Fresno**  
**Draft Master Environmental Impact Report**  
**for the 2025 Fresno General Plan**  
**EIR No. 10130**  
**SCH Log No. 2001071097**

**Chapter VI – Cumulative Impacts**

According to Section 15130(a) of the CEQA Guidelines, “An EIR shall discuss cumulative impacts of a project when the project’s incremental effect is cumulatively considerable, as defined in Section 15065(c). Where a lead agency is examining a project with an incremental effect that is not ‘cumulatively considerable,’ a lead agency need not consider that effect significant, but shall briefly describe its basis for concluding that the incremental effect is not cumulatively considerable.” In addition, “The discussion of cumulative impacts shall reflect the severity of the impacts and their likelihood of occurrence, but the discussion need not provide as great detail as provided for the effects attributable to the project alone” (Section 15130(b) of the CEQA Guidelines). Note that the cumulative effects were discussed where appropriate in each topical section in Chapter V. The following is a summary of those discussions. Included in this discussion is a conclusion of the impact, and the basis or rationale for that conclusion.

**A. POPULATION AND HOUSING**

1. Conclusion: Cumulative Impact is not considerable.
2. Rationale: The 2025 Fresno General Plan was developed to accommodate Fresno’s fair share of the region’s growth forecast.

**B. INCREASED TRANSPORTATION AND COORDINATION**

1. Conclusion: Significant and Unavoidable Cumulative Impacts
2. Rationale: Future development in accordance with the 2025 Fresno General Plan will contribute to the present and projected adverse traffic congestion on urban and arterial streets under the jurisdiction of the City of Clovis and the County. There are no mitigation measures available to reduce these impacts below a level of significance.

**C. DEGRADATION OF AIR QUALITY**

1. Conclusion: Significant and Unavoidable Cumulative Impacts
2. Rationale: The 2025 Fresno General Plan contains objectives and policies to moderate effects to air quality. The 2025 Fresno General Plan also calls for an increase in the densities of certain parcels, mixed land uses, and a refocus on existing neighborhoods. These policies work to reduce dependence on the private automobile and to reduce vehicle miles traveled through supporting multiple centers. Although these measures will result in positive air quality effects, they will not offset the effects caused by increased population.

**D. IMPACTS TO WATER SUPPLY, QUALITY, AND HYDROLOGY**

- ? 1. Conclusion: Significant and Unavoidable Cumulative Impacts
2. Rational: Although the proposed policies in the 2025 Fresno General Plan adequately address water supply issues, the subject of greatest concern relates to the implementation of a water conservation program and the maintenance of the 60,000 acre-foot allocation. The City continues to cooperate with the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District in reviewing projects to conform with

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements, as well as the District's Stormwater Management Plan.

**E. LOSS OF PRODUCTIVE AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES**

1. Conclusion: Significant and Unavoidable Cumulative Impacts
2. Rational: The Final EIR for the Fresno County General Plan reported, in October 2000, that implementation of the County General Plan will result in a loss of 37,737 acres of land currently producing food and fiber. The loss of agricultural land caused by the 2025 Fresno General Plan will be added to that total; both the Fresno County General Plan and the 2025 Fresno General Plan have concluded that such loss will be significant and unavoidable.

**F. INCREASED DEMAND FOR UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS**

1. Conclusion: Cumulative Impact is not considerable.
2. Rational: Adequate capacity can be provided for all utility and service systems, upon development. Long-term water supply is addressed separately in Section VI-D, above.

**G. INCREASED DEMAND FOR PUBLIC SERVICES**

1. Conclusion: Cumulative Impact is not considerable.
2. Rational: Growth and development in the City's General Plan area will increase the demand for police and fire protection services. However, police and fire services will adequately serve the development proposed under the 2025 Fresno General Plan.

**H. INCREASED DEMAND FOR RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

1. Conclusion: Cumulative Impact is not considerable.
2. Rationale: The cumulative impact Study Area for Increased Demand for Recreational Opportunities is the same as the Study Area for direct impacts. The 2025 Fresno General Plan proposes to update the City's Master Parks Plan to be consistent with the General Plan.

**I. LOSS OF BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

1. Conclusion: Cumulative Impact is not considerable.
2. Rationale: There is a relatively small amount of habitat and foraging area within the jurisdiction of the 2025 Fresno General Plan.

**J. POTENTIAL DISTURBANCE OF CULTURAL RESOURCES**

1. Conclusion: Cumulative Impact is not considerable.
2. Rationale: Development in the City's General Plan area has the potential to affect historic buildings and cultural resources. However, the objectives and policies proposed in the 2025 Fresno General Plan work to strengthen historic resource protection and conservation.

**K. GENERATION OF NOISE**

1. Conclusion: Significant and Unavoidable Cumulative Impacts.
2. Rationale: Noise impacts from increased traffic levels will be increased within the boundaries of the 2025 Fresno General Plan area. Noise impacts from the Fresno Yosemite International Airport, Chandler Airport, and Sierra Sky Park will also increase, given increased use of those airports. Finally, increased use of railroads for transport of freight and passengers will also contribute to increased noise levels in the community.

**L. GEOLOGY AND SOILS IMPACTS**

1. Conclusion: Cumulative Impact is not considerable.
2. Rationale: The Fresno metropolitan area is not prone to earthquakes or other geological hazards. In addition, the City's standard practice and procedures and the objectives and policies in the 2025 Fresno General Plan reduce effects related to geology.

**M. HAZARDS AND POTENTIAL GENERATION OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS**

1. Conclusion: Cumulative Impact is not considerable.
2. Rationale: All generation, transport, and treatment of hazardous materials shall be in full compliance with federal, State, and local requirements.

**N. INCREASE DEMAND FOR ENERGY**

1. Conclusion: Cumulative Impact is not considerable.
2. Rationale: Effects related to energy will be less than significant provided that energy supplies and necessary facilities are provided in a timely way to serve development.

**O. POTENTIAL LOSS OF MINERAL RESOURCES**

1. Conclusion: Cumulative Impact is not considerable.
2. Rationale: Based on the Department of Conservation's reports, total aggregate resources in the entire Fresno production-consumption region are estimated to be 2.2 billion tons. Not all of these resources are recoverable, however, because some of the known reserves lie within designated floodways and 100-year floodplains of the San Joaquin and Kings Rivers.

However, the Department's 1999 report noted that no aggregate mineral reserves underlying designated resource zones in the Fresno production-consumption region had been lost to urbanization or other irreversible land uses since the previous report and designation in 1988.

**P. SCHOOL FACILITIES**

1. Conclusion: Cumulative Impact is not considerable.
2. Rationale: Impacts to school facilities will be considered significant only if a project or action conflicts with either Section 17620 of the State Education Code or Chapter 4.7 of Division 1 of Title 7 of the State Government Code.

**Q. POTENTIAL AESTHETIC IMPACTS**

1. Conclusion: Cumulative Impact is not considerable.
2. Rationale: The cumulative impact Study Area for Potential Aesthetic Impacts is the same as the Study Area for direct impacts. It is the City's standard practice to evaluate projects, as required by CEQA, for their environmental effects, including light and glare. In addition, the 2025 Fresno General Plan includes policies related to designating certain streets as scenic corridors and boulevards.